

UPDATE SUNDAY 10 MARCH 2002

USING AMATEUR EQUIPMENT FOR HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES/REASONS

In order to clarify certain aspects of emergency communication and the use of Amateur Radio Equipment during emergency conditions, a meeting has been arranged between a representative of ICASA and myself. This meeting has become necessary to obtain clarification on certain aspects and contentious issues regarding the use of our equipment during emergencies and when used during exercises.

ICASA is the regulator who allows us the privilege to use certain radio frequencies to exercise our hobby. It is too often being taken for granted that these frequencies are also available for “commercial” use or financial gain. This is contrary to our licence agreement and this needs to be clarified.

The results will be discussed in brief on air after the meeting, but a more elaborate report will be published in a later edition of Radio ZS.

HAMNET BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY 3 MARCH 2002 COMPILED AND PREPARED BY FRANCOIS ZS6BUU

IN THE BULLETIN TODAY

Bulletins around the country The Window Sticker saga Dates to Diarise The Zimbabwe elections Gauteng South meeting Event Log sheet Amateur Radio at the Winter Olympics News from around the country

HAMNET BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Sunday morning kicks off with Hamnet KZN at 07H15 on their local VHF repeaters with a relay on 7.070Mhz by Wally ZS5WP.

Followed with the national Bulletin on 10,130Mhz in the 30M band with a relay on 7.070Mhz by Martin ZS6MSG. In Gauteng, 145,700Mhz is also used for a local transmission. The time is 17h00 local.

Next we have Gauteng North. Their bulletin runs from 18H00 local on 145.725Mhz with a relay on 3,650MHz or 7.090MHz by Rudie ZS6DX. Please note; this bulletin is going to move to a new time slot and day. The bulletin will in future be read on Tuesdays at 20:30 local time to accommodate those who are in church on a Sunday evening.

North West Province have a club bulletin on Mondays, which includes a Hamnet segment at 19H00 local on 3,750Mhz in the 80M band as well as their local repeater on 145.737.5Mhz.

Last but not least is Hamnet Western Cape Province with a bulletin on Wednesdays at 20H30 local on 3,674 relayed by Matt ZS1MJJ in the 80M band and on their local repeaters, 145:625Mhz, 145:700Mhz, 145:750Mhz and various other links.

Whatever you missed please access the S.A.R.L. Website under the heading “Hamnet News regularly updated”, for the latest news or if you are on Packet, it will have been sent to you thanks to Rudie ZS6DX.

THE WINDOW STICKER SAGA

Finally, let it be known that there is a campaign to prosecute drivers who clutter their rear windows with stickers, which may obscure their rear view.

In an article published in a daily newspaper last week, clarification was given regarding this problem. Traffic Officers will use common sense when issuing tickets but be warned, that if your vehicles rear window is covered with stickers, you could be fined. Traffic Officers are also issuing fines for darker than legal window tinting.

You are warned to conform to standards and darker than standard, must be removed.

DATES TO DIARISE

There are a number of events taking place this month starting with the Tour Natal Rally starting on Friday the 8th of March and ending on the Saturday. I am aware that the Natal Hamnet group will be very much involved in this event.

There are two long weekends in March albeit one, the first, which many will turn into a long weekend. Thursday the 21st is Human Rights day and many people will turn this into a long weekend from Wednesday evening to Sunday evening.

It will be appreciated if we could again monitor where possible, the frequency of 7,070MHz in the 40 metre band.

The second obviously is the Easter weekend when many people will make their way down to the KwaZulu Natal coast. This year, from Johannesburg, drivers will benefit from the newly opened section of the N3 between Heidelberg and Villiers. The toll fee has already gone up by R1 but for R18, it really makes that section of the road, a lot easier when it comes to handling stress on the road.

Easter this year starts on Thursday the 28th of March through to Monday 1st of April. Like the earlier long weekend, we will appreciate it if some time could be spent monitoring in the 40Metre band.

Easter would not be Easter without the two oceans marathon, which takes place in Cape Town on Saturday 30 March. Hamnet will probably be involved with comms. and I wish not only the operators but also the participants all of the best.

May I again respectfully request all users of this specific frequency that, although we have no right to claim a frequency to ourselves for humanitarian reasons, it

will be appreciated if conversations could be kept short and a reasonable pause left for breaking stations.

ZIMBABWE ELECTIONS

Elections take place in Zimbabwe on the 8th and the 9th of March. A lot has been said about what the outcome could be, but from a Hamnet and humanitarian point of view, we should where possible, monitor our emergency frequency over that weekend and the week after, for any eventualities which may play themselves out in Zimbabwe after the elections have been completed.

GAUTENG SOUTH HAMNET MEETING

I have had a request from Sarel Rossouw, ZS6APO, to bring to the attention of all Hamnet south members, of a meeting that will take place on Tuesday the 19th of March.

The meeting will take place in the “107 Center” in Krugersdorp and is timed for 19:00 hours for 19:30. This center is on the corner of Commissioner and Kruger streets in Krugersdorp and is basically the civic Center in Krugersdorp also known as Mogale City.

Please make an effort to be there as this meeting also includes a tour of the “107 Emergency Center”.

EVENT LOGSHEET

Just a reminder that an event log sheet has been compiled for events in which Hamnet is involved. Should you require a copy, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will gladly send you a copy. Should you wish to alter the sheet to suit your requirements, we have no problem with that.

It is critical that in any event, the controlling station please keep an accurate log of what transpired during any event should there be problems or should a reference to an incident be needed.

Please also remember that when any Hamnet activity like rallies etc. takes place, please let either myself or the League offices know who is participating so that we can advise the regulator ICASA.

AMATEUR RADIO AT THE WINTER OLYMPICS

The value of Amateur Radio was again shown when during the Winter Olympics which ended in Salt Lake City, about 200 operators, working in shifts, were available to supply alternative communications should normal communication fail.

This again is a very good reason for us to not only become members of Hamnet but also to support the South African Radio League who are there to ensure that the Amateur frequencies are kept available for not only our hobby but also in times of an emergency.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

Apart from listening to the various bulletins, should there be news from your area for the main bulletin, please send your contributions to either jans@netdial.co.za or francois@overflow.co.za.

Contributions are always welcome and it also supplements the Sunday get together on 10,130 and 7,070. It also helps to add some spice to the regular Sunday bulletin.

Bulletin Ends